



Global Tobacco Surveillance System

Data Release Policy

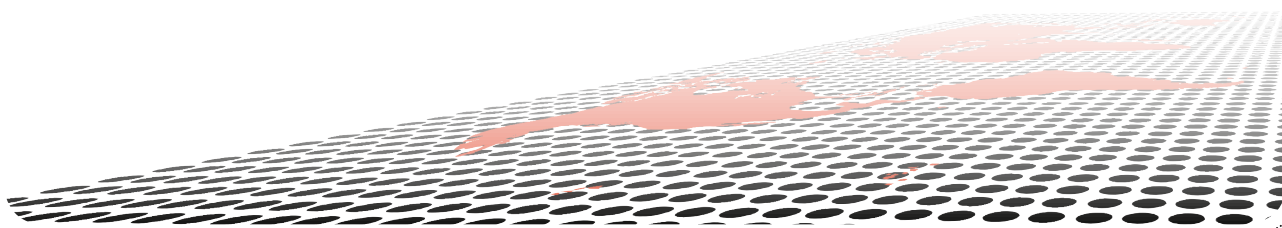
**Global Adult Tobacco Survey**





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## Introduction

Tobacco is a major preventable cause of premature death and disease worldwide. Tobacco control requires an efficient and systematic surveillance mechanism to monitor trends in consumption and other key indicators. The Global Tobacco Surveillance System (GTSS) addresses this need through school-based surveys, such as the Global Youth Tobacco Survey (GYTS), the Global School Personnel Survey (GSPS), and the Global Health Professions Students Survey (GHPSS), and through a household-based survey, the Global Adult Tobacco Survey (GATS).

GTSS school-based surveys were developed in 1998, initiated in the field in 1999 with the implementation of GYTS, and expanded with the implementation of GSPS and GHPSS in 2001 and 2005, respectively. Primary partners of the school-based surveys (GYTS, GSPS, and GHPSS) include the World Health Organization (WHO), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Canadian Public Health Association, and the participating national governments. Details about the GTSS school-based surveys can be reviewed through the pertinent Data Release Policy.<sup>1</sup>

GATS is a national household survey of adults aged 15 years and older. GATS aims to collect data on adult tobacco use and key tobacco control measures by using a standard global protocol. Results from the GATS will enable countries to develop, track, and implement effective tobacco control interventions. GATS was initiated through funding from the Bloomberg Philanthropies in 2007. The primary partners include WHO, CDC, and the participating national governments. The associate partners are the CDC Foundation, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health (JHSPH), and RTI International.

The GATS data release policy is consistent with the data release policy for the GTSS school-based surveys. The policy was developed as result of a series of discussions among the partners. The oversight for GTSS is provided by the GTSS Management Committee, which consists of all partners. The GTSS Management Committee meets annually to provide oversight and direction, enhance effective implementation, ensure sustainability, and evaluate effectiveness of the surveys.

The purpose of this policy paper is to define the partners' roles formally, affirm the policies and procedures for data collection and processing, and state conditions regarding release of the GATS data. Statement of these policies will also ensure standardization of procedures and serve as a reference guide for the implementation and dissemination of surveys.

1

Data Release Policy: School-Based Surveys. CDC, April 2007





## Section 1 > Partners and Partners' Roles

The GATS functions as a multi-partner initiative that represents global, regional, and national organizations. Each partner organization plays a unique role and contributes towards implementation of all aspects of the GATS process. Countries are expected to use the survey to guide the development, implementation, and evaluation of their tobacco control programs as part of their national capacity building process. Also, with the adoption of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC), GATS is one of the primary data sources for countries to use in the monitoring of key WHO FCTC articles.

### WHO Headquarters

The role of WHO Headquarters (HQ) is to provide a global policy framework, including norms and standards, for implementing and using GATS data. In particular, WHO HQ encourages the generation, translation and dissemination of GATS data in order to support the development of ethical and evidence-based policies and assessments of health trends. WHO HQ facilitates the GATS process by coordinating all phases of GATS implementation, providing technical support, and funding sustainable institutional capacity building in collaboration with partners, such as CDC, RTI, JHSPH, and other institutions. In concert with WHO Regional Offices (ROs) and WHO Country Offices (COs), WHO HQ works with national governments to ensure political commitment to the GATS program. Additionally, WHO HQ collaborates with its partners to provide technical support to countries for data analysis and dissemination.

### WHO Regional Offices

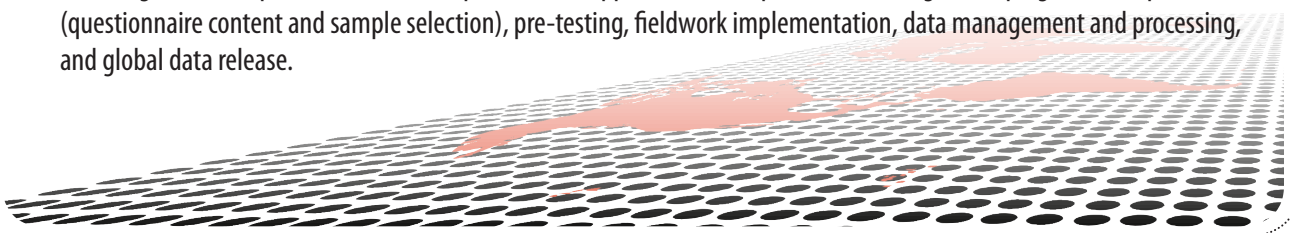
The role of WHO ROs in GATS is to facilitate implementation by coordinating with WHO HQ as well as global and national partners within their respective regions and with each of the WHO COs. This role includes facilitating data dissemination, promoting political commitment, and urging countries to implement the survey in their respective regions. Furthermore, ROs work collaboratively with partners to facilitate technical exchange and to enhance country capacity in all phases of the GATS implementation process, including prioritizing participation of countries and administering resources and funding

### WHO Country Offices

The role of WHO COs is to facilitate the introduction of GATS to national governments, to ensure political commitment, and coordinate all phases of survey implementation with WHO HQ, WHO ROs, and global and regional partners. WHO COs facilitate the establishment of the GATS in-country Coordinating Committee under the direction and oversight of each country's Ministry of Health (MoH), and assist the Ministry in the nomination of the GATS Implementing Agency (GIA). WHO COs collaborate with CDC, WHO ROs, and WHO HQ to facilitate technical exchange and strengthen country surveillance capacity in all phases of GATS implementation and dissemination.

### CDC

CDC is the WHO Collaborating Centre for Global Tobacco Control Surveillance and the Data Coordinating Center for the GTSS, including GATS. CDC provides technical expertise and supports the GATS process, including developing standard protocols (questionnaire content and sample selection), pre-testing, fieldwork implementation, data management and processing, and global data release.



### **National Governments**

National governments participate in GATS by making a political commitment to ensure sustainability for surveillance and monitoring of tobacco control, committing resources, establishing the GATS in-country coordinating committee, and supporting the GATS partners in the process of selecting the GATS Implementing Agency. National governments shall ensure, to the extent possible, that no tobacco-related interest will influence the GATS process. National governments also ensure that the country's report is completed in a timely manner following the conclusion of GATS. In addition, governments are also responsible for establishing mechanisms to disseminate and use the GATS data within a context of a national tobacco surveillance system, developing and implementing tobacco control initiatives, and monitoring WHO FCTC activities and articles.

### **GATS Implementing Agency**

The GATS Implementing Agency (GIA) is the agency nominated and selected by national governments with input from GATS partners to implement the survey. In some countries, a single GIA is selected to implement all phases of the GATS process (protocol adaptation [questionnaire and sample design], pretest, fieldwork implementation, data management and processing, weighting and statistical analysis, reporting, and data dissemination). In other countries, there may be multiple GIAs with responsibility for selected phases of the GATS process (e.g., Agency X for protocol adaptation; Agency Y for pretest, fieldwork, data management and processing, statistical analysis and reporting; Agency X and/or Agency Z for data analysis, country report, and data dissemination).

The GIA that is responsible for fieldwork implementation, data management, and processing will host the GATS National Data Center (NDC). The NDC will house the country level data for repository, management, and processing.

### **Associate Partners**

An associate partner is an agency or organization that collaborates with the primary partners to provide financial and/or technical assistance. The associate partners guarantee that they receive no funding from the tobacco industry or its affiliates for the purpose of its contribution to GATS. The associate partners will always collaborate with the primary partners when interacting with countries.

### **CDC Foundation**

The CDC Foundation provides resources and program oversight for development and implementation of the GATS.

### **JHSPH**

JHSPH, in collaboration with the WHO and CDC, provides training and technical assistance in the analysis of GATS data to guide intervention.

### **RTI International**

RTI International provides technical and training assistance in electronic data collection and handheld device operation for GATS.

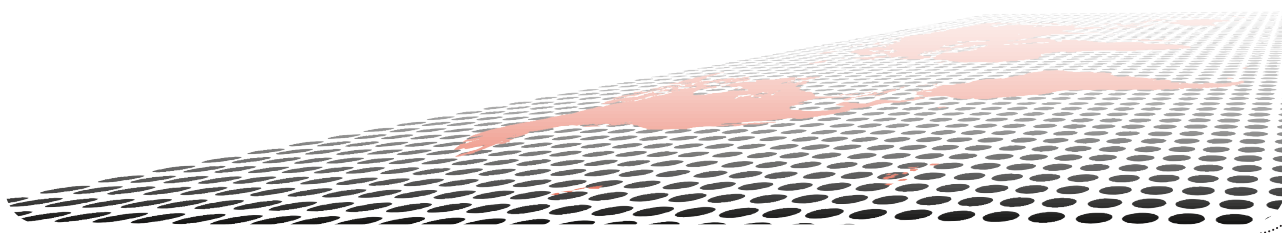




### **Data Coordinating Center**

CDC is the designated Data Coordinating Center and depository of the GTSS data, including GATS at an international level. The Data Coordinating Center provides data management, quality assurance, standardization, and data repository functions along with provisioning data sharing, release, and dissemination. This coordination function is vital to the continued success of GATS in three ways:

- Individual countries can be assured that their data will receive high quality support;
- As countries begin to repeat the GATS, they will be assured that their analysis of trends will be grounded in strong and consistent statistical procedures and practices;
- A coordinated process will enable standardized analyses which will be important to the direction and development of global tobacco programs and policies.







## Section 2 > GATS Process

The GATS process consists of six stages, including the introductory country engagement mission and five technical missions.<sup>2</sup> GATS technical committees have been established to review and approve each country's protocol including questionnaire adaptation and sample design.

### Introductory Country Engagement Mission

The introductory country engagement mission aims to meet with the officials of national governments, ensure the country's commitment to undertaking GATS, discuss establishment of the GATS in-country coordinating committee, and review the most appropriate GIA or GIAs.

Following the introductory engagement mission, the national government's MoH sends a formal communication to the GATS partners regarding their commitment to undertake GATS and selecting the GIA or GIAs. The MoH also sends a formal notification to the GIA or GIAs to implement GATS according to the standard protocol. The MoH establishes the GATS in-country coordinating committee.

### First Technical Mission

The first technical mission (proposal development) includes meeting with the representatives of the GIA or GIAs to review the standard protocol including country questionnaire adaptation, sample design and sample selection, handheld technology for data collection, timeline and budget to implement all phases of the GATS process; finalize pretest proposal; and review guidelines for full proposal development.

Following the first technical mission, a GATS pretest proposal is submitted by the GIA to the CDC Foundation, WHO, and CDC. CDC coordinates the review, evaluation, and approval of the GATS protocol (questionnaire adaptation and sample design) by the established GATS Questionnaire and Sample Design Committees. CDC coordinates with WHO and associate partners to plan pretest training and data collection by using handheld technology as per GATS standard protocol and implementing instructions.

### Second Technical Mission

The second technical mission (pretest training and implementation) includes training the interviewers from the GIA on the standard field procedures, ensuring pretest implementation by using the handheld technology for data collection, debriefing and reviewing the GATS questionnaire adaptation, and making necessary recommendations for full implementation.

Following the second technical mission, the GIA will coordinate with WHO and CDC to finalize the GATS sample design and selection. GATS full implementation proposal is submitted by the GIA to the CDC Foundation, WHO, and CDC. The GIA coordinates with CDC and WHO to plan training and data collection by using handheld technology as per GATS standard protocol and implementing instructions.

### **Third Technical Mission**

The third technical mission (fieldwork and data management) includes training the trainers for fieldwork, assessing readiness for main fieldwork; and implementing data collection and management procedures. The GIA is responsible for all aspects of the fieldwork and data management.

Following the third technical mission and fieldwork, each country's NDC will provide data consolidation, perform weighting consistent with GATS standard guidelines and recommendations, and share data with the Data Coordinating Center. During the entire data management process, WHO and CDC are available to provide any technical exchange requested by the GIA.

### **Fourth Technical Mission**

The fourth technical mission (analysis and reporting workshop) includes strengthening countries' abilities to analyze their data and complete the report. A team of experts will collaborate with countries to provide technical support and training. Topics for the workshop include data analysis plan, report writing and preparation of the fact sheet, and data release and preliminary data dissemination plans.

### **Fifth Technical Mission**

The fifth technical mission (dissemination and program policy workshop) includes strengthening countries' capacity and providing hands-on training in data dissemination and program policy development.



## Section 3 > Data Collection and Processing

### Data Collection

The Country GIA should facilitate and ensure the completion of GATS data collection within a specified period of 8 to 13 weeks. GATS field data from both household and individual questionnaires will be transferred and aggregated at the NDC on a frequent basis according to country's particular data management plan. Standard data collection and management procedure is summarized in the GATS Data Management Implementation Plan,<sup>3</sup> on the basis of the following documents: Core Questionnaire;<sup>4</sup> Question by Question Specifications;<sup>5</sup> Sample Design;<sup>6</sup> and Guide to General Survey System.<sup>7</sup>

Each country should designate a data manager/specialist who serves as a focal point and is responsible for the country data collection and aggregation and for sharing data with the Data Coordinating Center on as agreed basis to allow for tracking and quality control.

If there is an existing official data release policy observed by the GIA, it will supersede the comparable elements of the GATS data release policy in agreement with partners.

### Data Processing

Following completion of the GATS data collection, two separate procedures outlined below will be operationalized for sharing data with the Data Coordinating Center in accordance with the GATS Data Coordinating Center Guidelines.<sup>8</sup> The country is responsible for:

Sharing the raw record-level data excluding any confidential information with the Data Coordinating Center. The Data Coordinating Center will secure backup files of GATS data for all countries.

Generating weights in accordance with standard GATS sampling, stratification, and weighting procedures and protocol and sharing related documentation on generated weights.

Sharing the weighted data and supporting information, including the codebook and/or variable dictionary. The Data Coordinating Center will conduct final quality assurance, including weighting of data.

3 Global Tobacco Surveillance System (GTSS), Global Adult Tobacco Survey (GATS): Data Management Implementation Plan, 2008

4 Global Tobacco Surveillance System (GTSS), Global Adult Tobacco Survey (GATS): Core Questionnaire with Optional Items, 2008

5 Global Tobacco Surveillance System (GTSS), Global Adult Tobacco Survey (GATS): Question by Question Specifications, 2008

6 Global Tobacco Surveillance System (GTSS), Global Adult Tobacco Survey (GATS): Sample Design, 2008

7 Global Tobacco Surveillance System (GTSS), Global Adult Tobacco Survey (GATS): Guide to General Survey System, 2008

8 Global Tobacco Surveillance System (GTSS), Global Adult Tobacco Survey (GATS): Data Coordinating Center Guidelines, 2008

### Data Analysis and Reporting

Data analysis and reporting are primarily the responsibility of the participating countries. It is recommended that countries follow standard analysis and reporting templates<sup>9</sup> and share the draft preliminary tables and reports with WHO and CDC for review. The finalized country tables and reports should be made available within 3 months after the analysis workshop. WHO and CDC will process the country data by using a standardized procedure across all countries to create a global dataset for analysis, cross country report, and public data release.



## Section 4 > Data Release

### PART A: Publications

Any GATS standard publications include, but are not limited to, the following: country fact sheet; country articles; country report, and presentations. The primary GATS partners agree on the following regarding their own use of approved country data:

For internal dissemination and presentations (e.g., government officials, ministries) and for policy purposes, there are no restrictions on data use.

For external presentations (e.g., professional audiences, professional conferences, and meetings that require abstract submission), all primary partners must be informed during the first year after approval of the final data.

For publications (e.g., peer-reviewed articles, abstracts, print and web-based reports), all primary partners must be informed during the first year after approval of the final data.

Any other use of a country's data within the first year requires approval by the primary partners. Associate partners and other interested entities should work with primary partners regarding publication and presentation of data to ensure that proper credit be given to all GATS partners and funding agencies.

### Country Fact Sheet

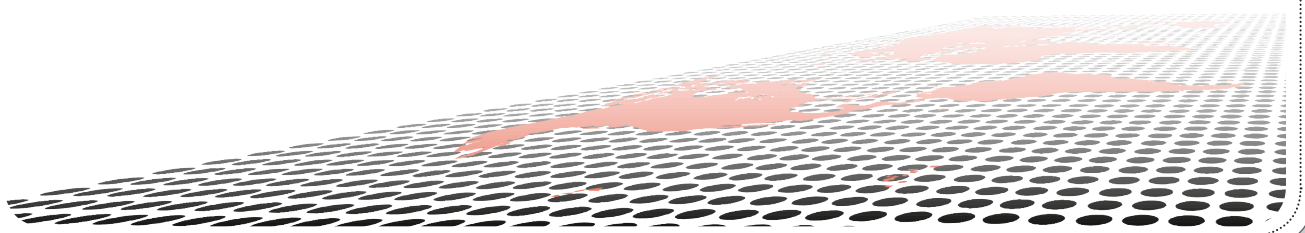
Each country is responsible for preparation of that country's fact sheet, following the GATS standard fact sheet template. The country will send the fact sheet to WHO and CDC for review and finalization. The country should also obtain official government agreement prior to its public release.

### Country Reports

When the country report is finalized by the corresponding GIA, the national government will be responsible for its release. Copies of the final country report are sent to WHO, CDC, and associate partners. The final country report will subsequently be made available for public use.

### Country Articles

The countries can initiate the writing of articles on any specific topic with a view to publish in peer-reviewed or other journals. The countries may seek collaboration with the partnering agencies in preparing articles, and they will decide which individuals to credit and the sequence of authors' names in published articles.



### **Presentations**

To facilitate presentation of GATS data at conferences, fact sheets for each country will be placed on the related GATS Web sites. The fact sheets provide extensive information that may be used in any scientific presentation on the condition that appropriate credits are provided. If new information becomes available from the data file, then the standard fact sheet template must be followed.

### **Cross-Country Articles**

A GATS collaborative group may write a cross-country report. The group should include national and global partners and other agencies. The group may also add other experts according to the topic and need. A draft of the report should be circulated to all GATS technical partners, any others deemed appropriate, and all countries involved for approval before final release of report.

### **WHO or CDC Logo**

According to WHO and CDC regulations and policies, the use of the name and emblem of WHO or CDC by national governments, research coordinators, or any other entities when publishing or presenting GATS data requires explicit permission from WHO and/or CDC. Note that the use of the name and emblem of WHO and/or CDC by third parties is strictly regulated and is normally not allowed other than in the case of a joint publication with WHO and/or CDC.





## **PART B: Public Use Data Release**

Below are four specific issues determining public use data release:

- 1. Products to release**

Public use data – All GATS data related to tobacco questions with the exception of any confidential information.  
Codebook – showing each variable name, the response categories, and its value.

- 2. Data to release**

All GATS data related to tobacco questions with the exception of any confidential information.

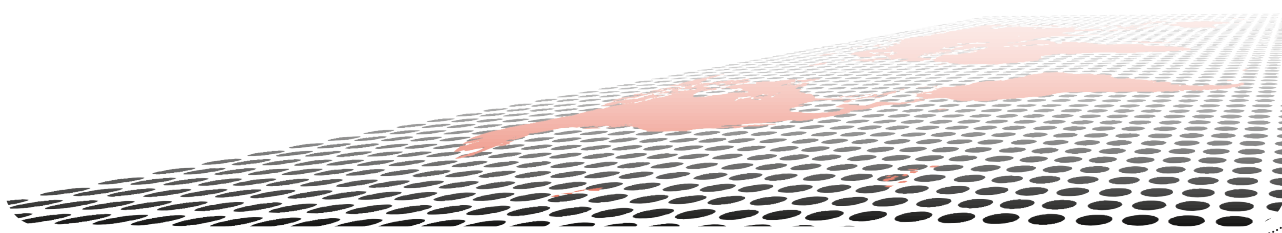
- 3. Timeframe for release of the products and data**

GATS data will be released after the country report is finalized and released by the national government no later than one year following the completion of data collection by the GIA or GIAs and data approval by the Data Coordinating Center.

- 4. Procedure for release of the products and data**

Each person requesting GATS data must complete the GATS dataset registration form online. This form is meant to track users of the data – it is not intended to indicate approval.  
After the form has been submitted, online users will have access to the data.

Queries about these policies can be emailed to: [GATS@CDC.GOV](mailto:GATS@CDC.GOV)



## Abbreviations

CDC	U. S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
FCTC	Framework Convention on Tobacco Control
GATS	Global Adult Tobacco Survey
GHPSS	Global Health Professions Students Survey
GIA	GATS Implementing Agency
GSPS	Global School Personnel Survey
GTSS	Global Tobacco Surveillance System
GYTS	Global Youth Tobacco Survey
JHSPH	John Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health
MoH	Ministry of Health
NDC	National Data Center
RTI	RTI International
WHO	World Health Organization
WHO HQ	WHO Headquarters, namely, WHO/Tobacco Free Initiative

### Headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland

WHO ROs      WHO Regional Offices, namely, the six regional offices of the

### WHO/Tobacco Free Initiative

WHO COs      WHO Country Offices, namely, the national offices of the WHO



